

Farnham is a small parish with a population of less than 200. When the PCC considered the bishop's questions, PCC membership was 6 including 2 churchwardens. All PCC members were female. Consideration was over two PCC meetings in January and February.

Extract from the PCC minutes:

"Consideration of the future shape of the church in Farnham

Firstly those present explored how they thought the church in Farnham was viewed by others. Those engaging with the church as visitors found us welcoming but do the residents of Farnham see the church as vital in the life of the village? Church members are present in other village activities but it was felt that those outside the church often view Farnham church as always wanting money for the building.

There was discussion about the role of the Rector and a view that he should provide leadership. However there was disagreement about how this leadership might manifest itself. Some felt that the Rector should be more visible in the parish but others recognised that, as incumbent to ten parishes, he could not take all the services nor, indeed, undertake all pastoral care.

Therefore it is vital that "Every Member Ministry" is employed.

The meeting then considered what our ministry looked like. It was felt that PCC members were already involved in pastoral care such as visiting, explicitly as caring members of the community and, perhaps implicitly, as church members. Concern for others is also shown through our prayers, for which some are openly grateful.

In discussing what additionally we might do as the church in our community, it was acknowledged that efforts to attract more parishioners to church services produced piecemeal success. Therefore it was resolved to continue the good work such as visiting but to see how the church might become more evident in the community in social activities, perhaps by organising events that do not have a fundraising focus."

Kind regards
Gill Baverstock
Churchwarden